

NEWS LETTER

of St. Mary Bromley

20th February 2025

They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

Luke 8

As we get nearer to Lent, we have many reminders from scripture about who Jesus is, to carry with us through the time of discipline and repentance in Lent, to Holy Week and beyond. and in this case, the last words from, the story of the stilling of the storm, a reminder of the power of God present in the son. Who is this? Answer: The Son of God. In this assurance we can move forward, in company with Jesus, following in his footsteps.

Sunday Club



All children and parents are welcome to join us for the Sunday Club session on Sunday 23rd February. We start in church at 10.30 a.m.

Canon Richard Handforth

Sadly, we learned last Sunday morning that Canon Richard who has been such a strong supporter of St Mary's and friend to many, died at his home in Bromley College at the weekend. We do not yet have any details of his funeral. We pray for his family and friends in their grief. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Burnt Ash Library Re-opening – Saturday 22nd February, 11am

Burnt Ash Library re-opens on Saturday 22nd February at 11am. The Mayor of Bromley will be re-opening the library at 11am, and all are invited to come and see the new-look library after the recent repair and refurbishment works. There will be refreshments and activities for everyone. For any further information, contact Sally Adcock.

Evening Study Group – Tuesday 25th February, 8pm – 9pm



Evening Study Group will complete its discussions of poems from The heart's time, a poem a day for Lent and Easter, by Janet Morley on Tuesday 25 February, 8-9pm. This will be a face-to-face meeting, for further details please contact Peter Boyden. Please note that the Group does not meet during Lent to enable members to attend other Lent courses in Bromley. We shall reconvene again after Easter.

Mothers' Union – Thursday 27th February, 10.00am



Our next meeting is our Annual Review which is on Thursday 27th February at 10.00am when we will present our reports for 2024. There will again be a Bring and Buy sale, any contributions please give to Mary, Margaret, your committee contact member or bring on the day. The meeting will be held in the Front Room of Church House – please do join us – all welcome.

Mural Restoration Thanksgiving Service – Sunday 2nd March, 10.30am - 2.30pm



Preacher Alan Keeler

Celebrate the finished mural restoration, with worship, refreshments and demonstrations/exhibition of the work in progress. **To help plan the catering Please** reply to the invitations or sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Shrove Tuesday 'Pancake Party' – Tuesday 4th March, 3.30pm – 5.00pm



All are welcome to come for Pancakes on Tuesday, 4th March, 2025. Time 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm at Church

Ash Wednesday service – Wednesday 5th March, 10.30am



There will be a short communion service on Ash Wednesday, 5th March 2025. Time 10.30 am at church. All are welcome.

Lent Study Group – Thursday 6th March – 10th April, 10.30am – 12 pm

There will be a Lent study group on Thursday mornings: March: 6th - April 10th

We will be using a book called 'At Home in Lent' by Gordon Giles and published by the Bible Reading Fellowship. Gordon is a Canon at Rochester Cathedral, and he will be coming to lead an introduction to the book. Meetings from 10.30-12.00 in the Buchan Hall.

World Day of Prayer 2025 – Friday 7th March, 10.30am



Everyone is welcome at the World Day of Prayer service at St Joseph's, Plaistow Lane at 10.30 a.m. on Friday 7th March. This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women from the Cook Islands on the theme 'I made you wonderful'. Further details from Frances Boyden

Advance Notice - St John's Lent Lecture – Sunday 9th March, 7.30pm

It's entitled 'God and AI' and will be held this year on Sunday 9th March at 7.30pm.

Our annual Lent Lecture sees leading professionals in their field address tough questions of how biblical theology responds to the challenges of life in the 21st century. For our 2025 Lent Lecture we look forward to welcoming Graham Budd, who is the Executive Director of The Faraday Institute, which improves public understanding of religious beliefs in relation to sciences. His research interests are at the intersection of AI ethics and faith. Graham will be speaking on the topic **God and AI: Being human in a world of superintelligent machines**. All welcome. Admission free.

Churches Together in Central Bromley Lent Course 2025 – Tuesday 11th March – 8th April



Six reflections on the Women in Jesus' Family Tree. Tuesdays 7.45pm – 9.30 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Bromley, BR2 0EG. Admission free. All are welcome.

Lent Quiet Day – Tuesday 25th March, Feast of the Annunciation, 9.30am to 3.00pm

Please save the date for our Lent Quiet Day. This will take place on Tuesday, March 25th in Church. Time: from 9.30 am ending with a Communion service at 3.00 pm.

All are welcome but we need to know how many people will attend for morning, afternoon, or just for Communion, for catering purposes. Please let Eucharika, Alison or Maria know if you would like to attend or sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Safeguarding – Urgent!

Last week an email was sent to Lisa from Eucharist requesting her to buy some thank-yous for members of the church. The request sounded kind, generous and genuine ... but it was odd and involved considerable expense. Following a conversation with Eucharist, **Lisa realised it was not true, it was a scam** – and a very convincing one! Someone had corrupted Eucharist's email title and used it to request money for themselves.

Sadly, these stories are happening more and more and are becoming increasingly smart. Please be careful and NEVER send money, or buy something which you are asked to, unless you have met the person and it is an agreement between you.

Be assured ... **No financial requests will ever be sent to you directly via email, without a face to face conversation having already taken place and there being an agreement between you.**

Should you receive ANY requests for money, or to buy something for the church ... **STOP! DO NOT** start buying or giving money to anyone. **Please CONTACT THE PERSON WHO MADE THE REQUEST immediately!** The chances are **this is a SCAM!**

If you have any concerns, please contact Lisa as our Parish Safeguarding Officer.
Thank you.

Food Bank



Please remember that Bromley Food Bank and the Starter Packs Project at St Peter and St Paul (the Parish Church) are always in need of supplies. As Easter is coming try and include chocolate or Easter eggs into your donations.

Easter Eggs



The new 2025 edition is available, and the 'Real Easter Egg' is the only fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box. The milk chocolate and dark chocolate eggs are also plastic and palm oil free. The milk chocolate egg is available at £6.20, and the dark chocolate egg is £7. These eggs are no longer available in supermarkets. To obtain one of these eggs, please sign the sheet at the back of church or contact Anne Yolland. Please order early as supplies may be limited due to a climate-related global cocoa shortage.

Grace Café



We meet in the church building on Wednesdays between 10am to 12 noon for coffee, cake and fellowship. You will be most welcome to join the volunteers who host the Grace Cafe. There is a sign up sheet in the church if you would like to help.

Prayer

A Prayer for the week

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Requests for Prayer Weekly

The family and friends
of Richard H
The family and friends
of John E
John C
Olive
Richard
(Barbara B cousin)
Andrew
Patricia
Tony
John S
Luci
Stuart (Sylvia's family
member)
The family and friends
of Tom
Pam
John H (Monicas
Brother)

Monthly Week 4

Toni Ruston
friend of Suzanne
Keith and Beryl
Eileen



If you have a need for prayer for things, please contact the Pastoral Team via Anthia Page
email anthiapage@gmail.com.

Worship, Prayer and Fellowship

Our service on Sundays are Live Streamed. See <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>

At our 10.30am – Family Communion – Sunday 23rd February 2025 – 2nd Sunday before Lent

Readings Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25; Revelation 4; Luke 8.22-25

Hymns

321	Love Divine All Loves Excelling
69	Breathe On Me Breath Of God
337	Morning Has Broken
153	Give me Joy

Intercession and Reading Rota

Please give your availability to Atlanta for reading and leading Intercessions, so we can fill in the Rota with confidence.

Please can contributions for the Newsletter now be given to Atlanta Topham by 5pm on a Tuesday